CLAIMS

1. A method for selecting prints of photographs from a digital film media, the method comprising:

(i) printing a selection sheet of thumbnail representations of photographs available on the media to be printed, the selection sheet further comprising a plurality of selection fields, each thumbnail representation being associated with at least one selection field;

(ii) marking one or more of said selection fields according to a user choice of photograph(s) to be printed;

(iii) inspecting the selection sheet to determine which of said selection fields has been marked in step (ii); and

(iv) performing one or more actions relating to the photographs stored on said digital media, in accordance with said marked selection fields.

2. A method according to claim 1, wherein for each thumbnail representation a corresponding plurality of selection fields are provided.

3. A method according to claim 2, wherein step (iv) is a printing step and a first type of said corresponding plurality of selection fields designates a print format in which the photograph represented by said thumbnail representation is to be printed in step (iv).

4. A method according to claim 2 or 3, wherein step (iv) is a printing step and a second type of said corresponding plurality of selection fields designates a number of prints of photographs corresponding to a particular thumbnail representation to be printed in step (iv).

5. A method according to claim 2, 3 or 4, wherein a third type of said corresponding plurality of selection fields is a "deletion" field which, when marked, designates that a particular photograph corresponding to the marked deletion field is to be deleted from the film media in step (iv).

6. A method according to any of the preceding claims, wherein said selection sheet is also provided with an identifier which is unique to the digital film media and, wherein, in step (iii) said unique identifier is inspected in a preliminary step and, if the unique identifier does not correspond to a unique identifier allocated to the digital film media, then the method terminates.

7. A method according to claim 6, wherein said unique identifier comprises a bar code.

8. A method according to any preceding claim, wherein step (iv) is a printing step and in step (ii) a user fills in one or more of the selection fields according to user choice of photograph to be printed, user choice of number of prints of said photographs to be printed and user choice of format of said photograph to be printed.

9. A method according to any preceding claim wherein marking of said selection fields in step (ii) comprises

filling in said selection field so as to change said selection field from a light, unselected, condition to a dark, selected, condition.

10. A method according to any preceding claim, wherein in said step (iii) the marked selection sheet is scanned.

11. A method according to any preceding claim, wherein in said step (iii) only those parts of the selection sheet corresponding to selection fields are inspected and the information gleaned from the inspection is processed to determine whether said selection fields are marked or unmarked.

12. A method according to any preceding claim, the method being implemented by means of a printer including a scanning mechanism in a feed path of the printer, wherein in step (i) the selection sheet is printed on the basis of data input directly to the printer by means of a digital film media interface, the printer being arranged to print out said selection sheet which is thereafter, in step (ii), manually marked by a user according to the user choice, the mark selection sheet then being input to the printer feed path and scanned by the scanning mechanism so as to perform the inspecting step (iii), data obtained during the inspecting step then being used so as to enable the printing in step (iv) of said one or more photographs.

13. A digital film enabled printer, said printer including printing means (48), a first interface (41) for interfacing with a digital film media (42) and for reading data from said digital film media (42), a user interface (43) for receiving commands from a user, inspection means

(45, 51_1-51_N) located in a paper feed path (44) of the printer, processing means (47) for processing data from said digital film media (42) and user commands from said user interface (43), the processing means (47) being arranged to create and to print out, using the printing means, a selection sheet of thumbnail representations for photographs available on the media to be printed, wherein said selection sheet further comprises a plurality of selection fields, each of said thumbnail representation being associated with at least one of said selection fields, the processing means (47) being further arranged for processing data from said inspection means (45, 46, 51_1-51_N) so as to enable a user marked selection sheet input to the printer (40) via the printer feed path (44) to be inspected and a determination to be made as to which, if any, selection fields have been marked by the user and to enable the performance of one or more actions relating to the photographs stored on the digital film media (42) in accordance with the marked selection fields.

14. A printer (40) according to claim 13, wherein said inspection means comprises a scanning mechanism (45) associated with a print head (48) of the printing means.

15. A printer according to claim 14, wherein said scanning mechanism (45) is attached to the print head (48) and movable transversely across the feed path (44) in response to signals from the processing means (47).

16. A printer according to claim 13, wherein for each thumbnail representation printed a plurality of selection fields are printed.

17. A printer according to any of claims 13 to 16, wherein a first type of said plurality of selection fields designates, when marked, the print format in which the photograph represented by said thumbnail representation is to be printed.

18. A printer according to claim 16 or 17, wherein a second type of said selection fields designates, when marked, the number of prints of photographs corresponding to a particular thumbnail representation to be printed.

19. A printer according to claim 16, wherein a third type of said selection fields, when marked, designates that the photograph corresponding to the thumbnail representation is to be deleted from the digital film media.

20. A printer according to any of claims 13 to 19, wherein said processing means (47) is further arranged to read a unique identifier from the digital film media (42) via the first interface (41) and to create and print out, using the printing means (48), a unique sheet identifier on said selection sheet.

21. A printer according to claim 20 wherein said inspection means is further arranged for reading the unique sheet identifier and, the processing means (47) is arranged so that if the unique sheet identifier does not correspond to the unique identifier of the digital film media, then the performance of said one or more actions is inhibited.

22. A method according to claim 20 or 21, wherein said unique sheet identifier comprises a bar code.